



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

9th May, 2022

Sunday Sermon: 1 Corinthians 15: 20-28

Continuing the series on the implications of what happened at Easter, this morning's sermon was titled: **Death is defeated.**

When dealing with death, what is significant in Biblical teaching is that Jesus, unlike other commentators or self-proclaimed 'experts' on the topic, Himself experienced it and overcame it through the resurrection – impossible though that might sound to sceptical minds – both for himself and for humanity. It makes the Christian gospel unique and complete.

Looked at in context it calls for us to **accept the ongoing inevitability of death** for everyone, regardless. All die, whatever age, stage, class or context. Even believers in the resurrection die. It is a fate that befalls everyone: "*dust to dust*".

While that applies to the material nature of death it is important to **understand the spirituality of death**. It is not just a matter of physiology and material existence. God created humanity a spiritual being with a soul capable of relationship with God. Death does not end that relationship to an eternal God. There is life after 'death'. The Christian gospel – with the facts of the death and resurrection of Jesus at its heart – speaks of hope. "*Death is vanquished*".

In the resurrection, Jesus conquered death and its hold on humanity. It therefore behoves us to **experience the victory of death** accomplished by Jesus in our own lives through saving faith and submission to his living his life out in us.

Mission of the Month

The total contributed to last month's cause – Street Connect – was £950 which has been gratefully acknowledged.

This month's Mission is CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship) an international mission focusing on reaching children with the gospel and nurturing them in the Christian Faith. Two of their workers, based in Scotland, Simon and Hannah Snodgrass, have been a real answer to prayer in taking over the running of our #One2Seven each week (19 children attending last week) free of charge. They will also be conducting the Holiday Club during the last week in June.

Simon will be speaking at our services on Sunday 29th May.

"Grasping for Beauty in a broken world"

A musical recital featuring classical pianist John Smith and cellist Rebekah Lesan exploring the beautiful hope offered by Jesus to a broken world; also including a clear evangelistic talk. Duration 80 minutes. Saturday 14th May at 7.30pm in the Tron Church, Kelvingrove (organised by Greenview Evangelical Church in connection with A Passion for Life)

Children for Christ, Romania

Storage space for materials collected for Children for Christ in Romania has now been secured by sharing warehouse facilities with the Opal Trust (a charity collecting and distributing Christian books, mainly to Africa) based in Darvel. Nearly all the materials which had been sorted, packed and stored at Allander have now

been relocated in Darvel ready to be transported in due course.

A big thank you to all who helped in this process.

Summer Holiday Club.

The next planning meeting will take place on Monday 16th May at 7.30pm. Please consider offering help during the club from 27th June to Friday 1st July.

Please remember this outreach in your prayers.

Reflections

At the Bible Study last Thursday, reflecting on Joshua's example, Inga shared with us the motivation that led her to be giving her life to translating the word of God into Mixtec. Her mother, a Faroese, did not have the Scriptures in her own language until later in life and, with this awareness and burdened for the lost, Inga was prompted by a reference to Acts 1: 8 made by Jean Donnelly to be a witness to the uttermost parts of the earth.

She also said that involvement in her mission is shared by the many – here in Allander and among villagers in the Faroe Islands - who regularly pray for her.

Others here in Allander and beyond also appreciate being prayed for regularly.

Behind the Scenes

The Allander Church building is very well placed in an excellent position in the town

centre with access to parking (free on Sundays and in the evenings) and convenient for transport. The building itself is spacious and well-equipped thanks to the foresight and endeavours of those who have gone before and those currently responsible for its functioning and wellbeing. And, it is well used. Its appearance, provision and functioning owes much to those who labour faithfully 'behind the scenes' – a ministry we all appreciate very much. Thank you.

Bible Study

After a good start on Joshua at last week's Bible Study, this week we look at Chapters 2 and 6. A question that can be posed is: In what way is this a gospel message?

Lessons from Joshua

Among the lessons learned from looking at Chapter 1 of Joshua were those that spoke of Joshua's call, his vision, the assurance he was given and the need to abide by the word of God.

There were lessons, too, relating to all the people for they also were crucially involved in this great project. It was a general command to prepare themselves for what lay ahead and also specific responsibility placed on those who had opted for more congenial locations but were nevertheless fully committed to see the task through to the end.

Finally,

This day last week I celebrated my birthday with some of the family, a happy and enjoyable time. It started me thinking. How do I know it's my birthday? Obviously I have no memory of being born, I only have my parents' word and, of course, my Birth Certificate to prove it. I have however a clear memory of being born again. Not that I can remember the date, I was 12 going on 13, nor can I remember what the visiting Evangelist said or his name. My strongest memory was of a need to get right with God by accepting Jesus as my Saviour and asking him to come into my heart. And how do I prove this? The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit is the only Birth Certificate I need.

Ian Baird